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NSC BRIEFING

12 June 1957

MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

I. Nasr lost ground last week as split in Arab world widened and pro-Egyptian leaders were defeated in Lebanese elections.

A. Saud visit to Amman accompanied by virtual rupture in Jordan-Egyptian relations as Hussain expelled Egyptian and Syrian military attaches.

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B.

C. Saud shocked by accumulating evidence of Egyptian political machinations

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D. Egyptian-dominated Arab Joint Command, which has been used by Cairo to extend political influence in Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, now of greatly reduced prestige and effectiveness.

II. Indications of Saudi rapprochement with Iraq, traditional dynastic enemy, continue. New cabinet in Iraq, following resignation of Premier Nuri Said on 8 June, may be formed end of week around new premier--opening door to closer collaboration with other Arabs against Nasr.

III. In Lebanon, first of four Sunday elections in June for parliament brought victory to supporters of pro-West Premier Solh. Outlook favorable although election disorders in Tripoli possible 30 June.

IV. On 7 June, first Israeli-flag vessel, A_tlit, arrived at Eilat in Gulf of Aqaba without incident after trip around Africa.

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